OCTOBER
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Goshen County Weed & Pest NEWSLETTER

Goshen County Weed & Pest

LET'S CONTROL PRAIRIE DOGS

It's no secret that Goshen county battles prairie dog populations. Here are some tips for battling landowners. Three keys to control: ***improve grazing management, control immediately*** *and* ***treat population repeatedly.***

Control methods

Fumigants- aluminum phosphide tablets (fumitoxin)

- *While wearing dry cotton gloves insert 2 to 4 tablets to each active burrow when soil temp is >50. Pack the treated entrance with crumpled paper and shovel soil to cover paper (seal all untreated entrances). Inspect treated burrows a couple days after, retreat all reopened burrows.*

Toxicants- anticoagulants and zinc phosphide

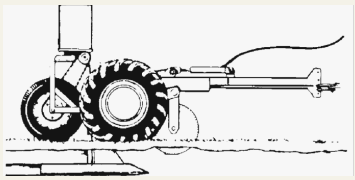
- *Anticoagulant (Kaput®-D) applied inside each active burrow. After 2 weeks properly cover (fill in) baited burrows, dispose of any above ground carcasses and retreat active burrows.*
- *Pre-bait with non-treated, clean oats next to hole, bait zinc phosphide (ZP Ag Oat) within the animals feeding area.*

Cost-share is available to Goshen county landowners! Visit us at www.goshenweedandpest.com/prairie-dogs.html for more info on our prairie dog program.

POCKET GOPHERS IN HAY FIELDS

Pocket gophers are seldom seen above ground, so there are few natural predators to manage their populations. Pocket gophers tunnel systems and feeding habits can damage fields while the mounds interfere with farm machinery and livestock.

It's most effective to treat pocket gophers in the spring and fall, due to their activity near the grounds surface.



Using a burrow builder machine (tractor-drawn implement that creates tunnels through the soil and drops measured amounts of gopher bait into tunnels) while the ground is soft.

Cost-share is available to landowners with gopher infestations and hold a private applicator license.

FALL APPLICATION

Enjoying the cooler weather? So are your weeds!

A study in Nebraska showed an increase in Canada thistle control when sprayed after a freeze compared to five days before the first frost. Fall weed control is most effective on biennial (musk and scotch thistles, dandelion) and perennial plants (Canada thistle, bindweed, clover). As seen below, weeds are easy to spot in fall compared to spring when all plants start turning green.

Fall herbicide applications are most effective when day-time temperature is 50 degrees or above. Night-time temperatures can be below 32 degrees for 4-5 hours several nights in a row. Low-growing plants, such as thistle rosettes and dandelions, will remain warmer as soil radiates heat to the plants. As temperatures cool, plants metabolize herbicide more slowly so injury and death may take 2-4 weeks to appear. Adding a label-approved surfactant may aid in herbicide uptake.

L to R: Musk thistle prior to treatment; 7 days after treatment; 13 days after treatment

A successful herbicide application is highly dependent on sprayer calibration. Proper calibration can be achieved in just four ***math-free*** steps! goshenweedandpest.com/how-do-i

STAY IN THE KNOW

- Prairie dog bait available - Oct 1st - March 15th
- Follow our Facebook page for updates
- Tell someone about our newsletter!

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